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be merely storage houses, a lively sympathy with the people. In other words, he must be an astute business man, a scholar, a teacher, a publicist, and to find all these qualities in one person is, it must be admitted, rare. Furthermore, the reward for such service is commensurately small. The successful professional man, whose income is considerably less than that of the successful man of business, can count on earning, yearly, a much larger amount than is offered as salary to the majority of directors of art museums. Obviously this should not be. Art should not be made a plaything nor a matter of charity. But it is continually so classed. Doubtless it does offer compensation to those who have the love of it in their hearts, but so does any subject pursued professionally. America's art history has so far been but a short time in the making. The oldest art museum in this country was founded only a little over a century ago, and the majority do not antedate the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Naturally there has been little time to train experts. But museums are being rapidly multiplied. Before many years the demand for capable art directors will be incalculably increased and already men should be in training for these positions. Such directorships should not fall into the hands of experimenters, of men turned directors, from other walks of life by the accident of chance, but experts well-schooled, to whom adequate salaries and opportunity of promotion should be guaranteed.

NOTES

THE PEOPLE'S GARDENS OF WASHINGTON

Washington is justly regarded as a beautiful city because of its broad streets and avenues lined with spreading trees from end to end, its magnificent public buildings, its beautiful private residences, its extensive parks and drives, its noble river, and its attractive suburbs. It is unique in that it did not grow up in a haphazard fashion with narrow crooked streets, but was laid out

and planned in advance by a distinguished engineer, Major L'Enfant, and has developed along the lines laid down by him. It is also unique because it is the Capital of the Nation and is becoming more and more a residential city and a center of social as well as of political influence. It is unique, further, because of the absence of districts given over to factories and industries which, while adding to the wealth and prosperity of the communities in which they are located, stand as serious obstacles to the betterment and beautification of so many of our American cities. Notwithstanding all these great natural advantages it is apparent that there is vast room for improvement in Washington, due to the lack of combined and systematic effort on the part of citizens to beautify their home surroundings.

Realizing the need for improvement in this respect and to secure a further utilization of the natural advantages possessed by the city, the People's Gardens of Washington was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia in April, 1910, by a small band of enthusiasts. Among its charter members were some of the most influential residents of the city. The President and the Secretary of Agriculture are honorary members. Mr. David Fairchild, who is in charge of the foreign seed and plant exploration and introduction work of the Department of Agriculture, is president. Mr. Frank B. Noyes, president of the Associated Press, is one of its vice-presidents and most active members. Mrs. S. F. Emmons is chairman of the garden council, which is composed of eleven specialists in various branches of horticulture and landscape gardening, and will act as a bureau of information and give expert advice in all matters relating to the improvement and maintenance of grounds, where and what to obtain in the way of seeds, plants, shrubs, vines, trees, fertilizers, and the necessary implements and accessories.

It is planned, by means of co-operative agreements, to secure the management of whole city blocks, to draw up plans for their systematic treatment, and when ap-

proved by the residents the garden manager and a corps of trained assistants will proceed to put the plans into effect and thereafter keep the yards, parkings, and grounds in proper condition. In this manner it is hoped that block after block will be taken up until whole streets and avenues from end to end are brought under the management of the association. An entire block can be treated and cared for with but little more expense than a single large lot, and by prorating the expense on an equitable basis the cost can be reduced to a minimum, certainly not more than the cost under the present haphazard system or lack of system. Already offers have been received for the treatment of several entire squares by the association.

Although the season was far advanced when the association was organized, recreation gardens have been established and are making satisfactory progress.

To further stimulate interest in the beautification of home grounds a series of prizes will be offered for the best kept and most attractive yards, lawns, gardens, window boxes, and school grounds. One of the members has donated a thousand dollars as a memorial fund, the income from which will be available for the objects of the association, and many public-spirited business men of the city have promised to contribute liberally.

The work of roadside planting was inaugurated early in May when a large party of young people in carriages and automobiles and supplied with seeds of various hardy flowering annuals were sent out under the auspices of the association to make plantings at suitable points along the roads and drives in the suburbs and surrounding country. This expedition was enjoyed by all who took part in it and will be repeated next year. Many of these seeds are now growing and will blossom this fall. These blossoms will be all the more attractive because of the unexpected places in which they will be found.

To further spread the gospel of civic beauty, arouse interest, and give practical aid to those who wish to beautify their

grounds, the association plans to arrange for a series of lectures in the fall and winter months by specialists, to be illustrated with attractive lantern slides showing what has been done in Washington and other cities. These lectures will be supplemented by a series of printed folders giving brief and specific instructions as to the best methods of treating small lots, what to plant, how to plant, cultivate and care for the home grounds so as to secure the most attractive results.

Although organized late in the season the association is meeting with gratifying success. Its membership list is growing rapidly and includes some of the most prominent and influential residents of the city and many associate members among the non-resident class. Its organization and methods have been endorsed by many public officials, and by the Chamber of Commerce, and other civic organizations. Before the close of the first year of its existence it hopes to have several thousand active members working effectively for the utilization of the many great natural advantages of the city. It requires little imagination to picture each street and avenue a vista of loveliness, with spreading trees, radiant flowers and well-kept lawns.

Aside from the appeal to the love of beauty, there is a strong practical side to this movement. Washington can be made the city beautiful, the garden city, the flower city par excellence of this country. Hundreds of thousands of visitors who throng its streets in spring and autumn will carry with them recollections not only of its magnificent public buildings, its great public parks, its noble river and splendid water-front, and its broad, clean streets and avenues, but its miles and miles of beautiful yards and grounds. The prosperity of Paris is based largely on its appeal to the beautiful. Japan with its cherry blossoms and chrysanthemums in their season draw multitudes of sightseers. Berlin is remembered for its flower balconies, Holland for its bulb gardens, and England for its stately parks and beautiful flower gardens and well-kept

grounds. Washington with its possibilities fully utilized would be the city unsurpassed and unapproached. It is realized that thousands are willing to help bring this about, but do not know how. The People's Gardens aims to bring these people together with those who have had some experience in such matters and to build up a concrete, effective organization for carrying on this great work of civic betterment and beautification.

LEON M. ESTABROOK.

A. F. A.
TRAVELING
EXHIBITIONS

The American Federation of Arts is arranging to send out a number of traveling exhibitions during the coming season. From the exhibition of oil paintings set forth successively during the summer and early autumn in the Albright Gallery, Buffalo, and the City Museum, St. Louis, forty or more pictures will be selected to make a circuit of southern cities and towns. From the artists' studios a second collection of similar size will be assembled to make a circuit of the west, which will, it is thought, include cities on the Pacific coast. On somewhat the same circuit, beginning, however, in the east, will be sent an exhibition of original work by American illustrators, which is to be assembled by the Society of Illustrators, of New York, of which Mr. Charles Dana Gibson is President and Mr. H. S. Fleming Secretary. This will consist of about two hundred drawings in black and white and in color, representative of the best current production, framed but not glazed. The following will compose the jury of selection: C. D. Gibson, Arthur I. Keller, A. B. Wenzell, F. Walter Taylor, R. B. Birch, W. J. Glackens, and F. D. Millet. An exhibition of student work contributed by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Rhode Island School of Design, Pratt Institute, and others, will also be sent out, as well as a collection of water colors by contemporary painters. Through the Library of Congress, exhibitions of mezzotints, etchings, engravings, and photographs secured through the copy-

right office will be available. In each instance the cost of transportation and insurance is borne proportionately by the organizations securing the exhibitions. It is purposed to send out the exhibitions mentioned early in the fall and it is most desirable that all who may wish to secure them should communicate with the Secretary of the American Federation of Arts as early as possible. The committee under whose charge these exhibitions will be selected and sent out is composed of John E. D. Trask, chairman; Francis C. Jones, Adolph Weinman, Walter Scott Perry, and Henry Turner Bailey. It is hoped that other exhibitions may be added during the season and suggestions concerning their character will be gladly received.

LEGISLATION
AGAINST
BILLBOARDS

Popular disapproval of the billboard as an agency for outdoor advertising is growing at a remarkable rate. But the war against the billboard can not be too persistent for the "opposition to the opposition" is well organized and always ready to put to the test of the courts any new ordinance, wherever passed, proposing to eliminate or even regulate billboards.

The newer efforts directed against the billboards propose to regulate them and, further, to tax them. And in both respects great progress is being made. The Supreme Court of Missouri has recently passed a most important decision confirming the right of St. Louis to regulate by ordinance its billboards. The Legislatures of three States have recently considered laws designed to place a tax upon billboards. Massachusetts has been particularly active in an effort to secure such legislation. The crusade in that State has enlisted the hearty support of many of the leading professional and business men of the Commonwealth. Dr. Charles Eliot, of Cambridge, coined a new expression in the agitation against the billboard when he alluded to it as an "uglifier of landscape." Such it is and more. It is a menace to health and to morals. The American Civic Association, in its persistent campaign for a